

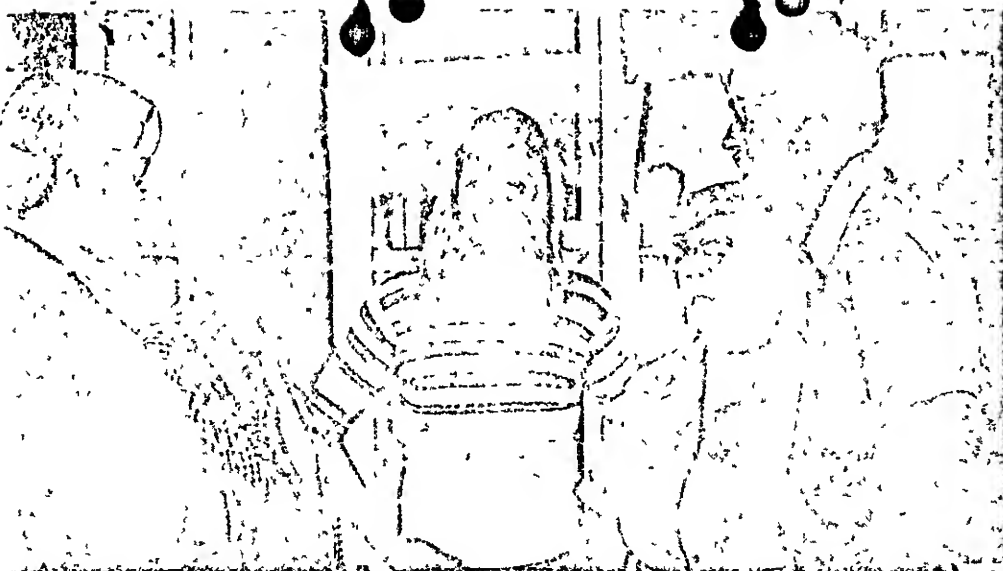


FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: Democratic Socialists of America/Remand



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY FRANK FOLWELL

Davenport members of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee are (from left) Ned Petersen, JoAnne March, Gordon Muller, Doris Kolvoord and Bruce Buekens. About a dozen Yowpus are members.

ed in the 1970s. Now it's for something different. Some people are convinced that if you question the fundamental structure of the system, you have to be a radical, in a berib in one hand and a d flag in the other. We ant to open up the decision making process to some considerations besides simply business profit."

Kolvoord — "It has to be an evolutionary process."

Mrs. Kolvoord and the others have that process got a push from public reaction to the Vietnam War.

"If opened people's minds to question the government and ask just how are these decisions made," said Muller.

The liberal approach, said Petersen, was to "latch onto government as the counterforce to the corporation."

Now, he said, the Nixon administration has dismantled the social programs increasing problems of many poor persons.

See Change Ahead

Probably more important, the agreed are the new difficulties of energy shortages, inflation and threats to the environment. The higher prices undeveloped countries are charging for raw materials will keep those problems around for many years, they said.

The result in the coming decades will be radical — although not necessarily violent — change, they said.

The question they added, is what kind of change. A change in which society is dominated by technocracy or government-imposed capitalism or communism or something else?

"If you want to keep your freedom and liberty, you cannot concentrate your power in any one portion of society," said Petersen.

Thus, Davenport's Democratic Socialists are not big supporters of nationalization of industry and business, because they said that would give too much power to government.

Instead they want "public ownership and decentralized control" of large businesses with consumers and workers having an equal voice with management in determining company products and prices.

Such a system would virtually eliminate profits thus making nearly impossible the accumulation of great wealth — the traditional American dream of many workers and businessmen.

American Dream

Petersen concedes that "making a million dollars happens often enough to satisfy the myth."

But, the result is a lower standard of living for the average person, said Mrs. Kolvoord, adding:

"We've got to change the American dream."

But, they were asked wouldn't that stifle the motivation that has helped produce America's riches?

No, they replied, because people could still be motivated to have \$50,000-a-year executive jobs, for example.

Also they claim, values have changed.

People are as concerned about working conditions and job satisfaction as they are about wages.

People are demanding more inexpensive child-care centers, medical care and educational opportunities that will not wreck a lifetime's savings, reliable public transportation to counteract the rising cost of gasoline and growing expense of owning a car, they said.

And, they said, people also are seeking openness in a government that has had its integrity shaken in part by the heavy influence of big business.

"Scary"

Mrs. Kolvoord, who also is second vice-chairman of the Scott County Democratic Central Committee, campaigned for her delegate spot to the Democrats' December convention on a theme of keeping the party open.

Party reforms in 1972 resulted in greater participation by women and minorities in major decisions. Reforms also brought complaints of a "quota system" — and a move to go back to some of the old ways when the December convention writes a charter.

"I think it's scary," said Mrs. Kolvoord. "I don't want to lose that openness."

The socialists are not always super-serious. Actually, they laugh a lot.

Although Petersen, in particular, spurns materialism, Mrs. Kolvoord doesn't like the idea of the spartan existence socialists often lead in novels.

"I'm a believer in certain luxuries," she said, "because I don't think it's good to be strictly utilitarian. Life needs a certain degree of frivolity."

Socialist Iowans Seem to Change

By Norris A. Brewer
(Editorial Staff Writer)
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DAVENPORT, IA. — Doris Kolvoord was 30 when her widowed mother inherited property in Germany and they moved there from New Jersey in 1934. Doris joined the Hitler Youth and the German Party. Records being checked when she learned of the war at once. "We've learned to question a lot more since World War II," she said solemnly. Mrs. Kolvoord is now a wife of a retired U.S. Army sergeant, mother of two and grandmother of one. And she's questioning the American system of government.

She's one of perhaps a dozen

Iowans who belong to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee — called "Dee Soc" by its members. Michael Harrington, who put the group together last fall. Socialism, which advocates control of production, capital, land, etc. in the community as a whole, is not unique in Iowa. But in the past, persons with such leanings usually have kept to themselves because of the backlash of McCarthyism in the 1950s.

Now, attitudes changed. Harrington, Mrs. Kolvoord and Democratic Socialists across the country — a thousand plus, they claim — openly are pushing their cause with news news let

ters, study groups and political participation. Mrs. Kolvoord recently named a delegate to the Democratic Party's National Charter Convention in Kansas City next December. Did fellow Democrats know they were supporting a socialist she was asked. "People were aware of it," she said. "It wasn't kept secret."

Peaceful Change
State Democratic Chairman Tom Whitely believes Mrs. Kolvoord is viewed first as a hard working Democrat (she ran for the Iowa House in 1972) and second as a socialist. But he concedes there "na be Democrats who disagree

There is no doubt that Kolvoord and other Iowa socialists — there are five in all — are in the Davenport area. But they stress doing it peacefully, without causing political and government structures, and they feel no threat of punishment or same thing. The difference and change during a recent four hour interview with Doris Kolvoord. Please write to: Editor

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Des Moines, Trib
Sat., Aug. 3, 1974

Socialist: Life Needs Some Frivolity

Socialists--

Continued from Page One

ports DeeSoc members one recent morning, is simply this: "To be truly socialist you've got to have democracy."

Muller, 27, a bachelor is a junior high mathematics teacher in the Pleasant Valley school system and has represented teachers in negotiations with the school board.

Diverse Backgrounds

Two others also are teachers, both in the Davenport system.

Bruce Buerkens, 41, married, an elementary school principal last year who has not yet received an assignment for the coming year (it "looks like" that may be tied to his socialist work, said Buerkens, but "no one has openly said that"). JoAnne Munch, 34, married, a third grade teacher who prefers Ms to Mrs.

Then there's Ned Petersen, 28, single, a teacher by training who never has taught. He lives with his parents, picking up spending money as one of the commissioners who selects Scott County District Court jurors.

Petersen says the only profession that has stirred his interest so far is being a "political activist."

And there's Doris Kolvoord, the war bride who non-scratched between Army bases before her husband, Edwin, settled in Davenport with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers five years ago.

Active Democrats

The five socialists all are active in Democratic politics as precinct committeepersons. In 1972 they worked for George McGovern. At this year's Scott County Democratic Convention they set up a booth and distributed socialist literature. All but Buerkens have been state convention delegates.

They — and the other half-dozen Iowa socialists, most of them teachers or students at the state universities — pay \$15 a year (\$8 for "hardship" cases) to belong to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee.

The Democratic Party platform reflects (unless they proposed or worked for)

Giving labor and consumer groups more voice in business decisions, paying medical school costs of doctors who will stay in Iowa (viewed as a step toward socialized medicine), opposition to corporate farming, the government guaranteeing jobs at comparable pay for those put out of work by energy or environmental policies.

The central, long-range goal of change though is to replace America's profit system with one of "fair wages" — with top executives probably making about \$50,000.

Views

These and other views, polished by the Davenport DeeSoc members at regular discussion meetings during the past several months, were reflected in the interview. Some excerpts from the dialogue.

Petersen — "We're not a political party and don't intend to be. We do encourage members to run for political office. I think it's important to put the word out (that you are a socialist) just so you aren't clubbed

Kolvoord — "We're a very peaceful group. The one thing I'm opposed to is violence. People are being priced out of everything. They followed the dictates of what they were taught, but now have no access to the rewards. Too many people can't afford to own a house, a college education for their kids, medical care. If I feel that way, and we are just about middle income, how must people of low income feel?"

Petersen — "You end up poor after a life of hard work."

Kolvoord — "That's why you see the gray power movement."

Muller — "You see cities taking over bus companies because they are inefficient. Business is often more efficient at making a profit than providing service."

Petersen — "The government is not working for the public good, but for the private good."

Munch — "You saw it in the wheat deal to Russia."

Petersen — "The worst criminals in our society (those connected with Watergate and other scandals) get a pat on the hand. The person who steals because he is hungry gets put in jail for several years."

Buerkens — "JoAnne and I work in schools where they feed kids twice a day."

Muller — "Schools are a social institution, not we don't label it socialism."

Kolvoord — "Social security was a terrible thing in 1933, but by 1935, after it was passed, it was all right."

Petersen — "Liberals failed in the 1930s and conservatives

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SAC, Omaha

9/24/74

Director, FBI

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**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

Reurlet dated 9/12/74 concerning above committee wherein you requested to be advised if this committee is a legitimate political organization or if Omaha should initiate investigation.

The Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee is a legitimate organization and no further action should be taken by your office to investigate this organization. It was founded in New York City on 10/12/73 and one of its leaders pointed out that this organization does not seek a large membership but makes itself known as a socialist organization and must work within the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. For example, some of the goals of this organization are support of tax reform measures, massive redistribution of wealth, and nationalized medicine.

[redacted] was formerly the subject of a security-type investigation; however, he has not been for a number of years. [redacted]

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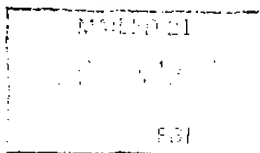
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